

The Church Bells of Berkshire

PART XV.

By FREDERICK SHARPE, F.S.A.

231. WALTHAM-ST.-LAWRENCE.

St. Laurence.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 40 inches in diameter, in A flat; and a Sanctus Bell.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Weight.</i> | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lb.</i> |
| Treble. | THE GIFT OF THE RIGHT HON ^{BLE} LORD BRAYBROOK T. MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1808 | 5 | 1 | 25 |
| Second. | THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1808 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| Third. | (<i>Same as second.</i>) | 6 | 1 | 10 |
| Fourth. | THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON FECIT 1808 / C.F.J. / 4263 / RECAST BY / GILLETT & JOHNSTON / CROYDON 1931. | 7 | 1 | 1 |
| Fifth. | (<i>Same as second.</i>) | 7 | 3 | 19 |
| Tenor. | JAMES HIBBART ROBT. CHILD CHURCH WARDENS THOMAS MEARS & SON OF / C.F.J. / LONDON FECIT 1808 / THESE BELLS WERE REHUNG & / NOS. 4 & 6 RECAST 1931 / THROUGH THE GENEROS- ITY OF G. A. MONKHOUSE ESQ. / THE REV PHILIP NIND, VICAR. / RECAST BY / GILLETT & JOHNSTON, / CROYDON. / 4264 | 12 | 0 | 0 |

A ring of six originally by Thomas Mears and Son, of the Whitechapel foundry, 1808. The fourth and tenor were recast at the Croydon foundry in 1931. The initials C.F.J. are those of Mr. Cyril F. Johnston, of the firm of Gillett and Johnston. The new bells also bear the firm's pattern numbers, and were cast without canons. The nineteenth century bells retain their canons and have been quarter-turned. The treble has been sharpened in tone by means of the removal of a portion of its lip; the others have had their strike-notes and some of their partial tones flattened.

The former fourth bore the inscription: ¹

THOMAS MEARS & SON OF LONDON
FECIT 1808

¹ *Walters' MS.*, fol. 248, Society of Antiquaries Library.

The former tenor was inscribed: ¹

JAMES HIBBART ROBT. CHILD CHURCH
WARDENS THOMAS MEARS & SON OF
LONDON FECIT 1808

The ring hangs in an oak frame of nineteenth century date: the gear includes elm headstocks, hoop gudgeons, self-aligning ball bearings, and traditional-type wheels. The bearings and parts of the wheels were renewed in 1931. The remainder of the gear dates from the nineteenth century.

In an open bell-cote covered by a pent-roof on the top of the tower hangs an interesting fourteenth century saunce bell. For reasons stated below it is obvious that the bell is a second-hand one, and came to Waltham St. Lawrence in 1681. It bears two inscriptions. On the waist of the bell is inscribed:

+ HRAE FOR THE BELIHART OF ROBERE
CONISBE

This inscription is cast in relief in the orthodox manner and is formed in well proportioned fourteenth century lettering. Incised in Roman capitals on the sound bow of the bell is the additional inscription:

HEN BOVLT C W + THE GEIFT
OF IOHN ABEERE OF THE HILL
+ 1681

For the following notes on the family of A Bear I am indebted to Mr. Stanley W. Collier to whom I tender my grateful thanks:

The A. Bears were a family of yeomen residing at Hare Hatch in the parish of Wargrave. They are mentioned in a deed of *circa* 1340. For many centuries there were numerous entries relating to members of this family in the parish registers; and in 1544 nine persons bearing this surname died in the short space of twenty-one days, as testified by entries in the burial register. In 1632 John A. Bear purchased land at Hare Hatch, probably that known as "The Hill", and was there in 1681 as shown by the incised inscription on the saunce at Waltham-St.-Lawrence. His name was also formerly found on the tenor bell at Wargrave. The A. Bears continued to reside at "The Hill" until about a century ago. The

¹ *Ibid.*

house is partly of the Queen Anne and Georgian periods and also incorporates some earlier work. Mr. Collier states that members of this family now reside at the Manor Farm, Aldsworth, in Gloucestershire.

The Waltham-St.-Lawrence saunce has been quarter-turned, and fitted with a false crown staple; its gear consists of an elm headstock, drive-in type gudgeons, stock hoops, and an iron lever.

The fourteenth century cross and lettering are not known to campanologists to occur elsewhere.

The Rev. T. A. Turner visited the church in 1876 and noted another bell,¹ then used as a clock bell, 19 inches in diameter, which bore the date:

1825

I was informed by Mr. Davies, the churchwarden, in 1954, that this bell was given to the church of All Saints, Shurlock Row. This explains the query concerning the Shurlock Row bell made under the heading of that parish.²

Visited:

W.M.E.S., F.S., 14th August, 1954.

232.

WANTAGE.

SS. Peter and Paul.

Ring of Eight Bells; tenor 50 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, in D natural; and a Sanctus Bell.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Weight.</i> | | |
|--------------|--|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lb.</i> |
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON. 1892. / H. D. DE VITRE, W. JACKSON, } CHURCHWARDENS. | 6 | 0 | 8 |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 6 | 1 | 11 |
| Third. | WILLIAM CVRRY HENRY KEENE C W / H (<i>Fig. 17.</i>) K 1669 | 7 | 3 | 13 |
| Fourth. | JOHN PENNER ❀ IAFERY MASEMORE ❀ CHVRCH ❀ WARDENS ❀ 1660 (<i>Bell.</i>) W (<i>Bell.</i>) P (<i>Bell.</i>) ❀ ❀ ❀ / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK, WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY, LONDON. 1892. / H. D. DE VITRE, W. JACKSON, } CHURCHWARDENS | 8 | 1 | 5 |

¹ *Walters' MS.*, fol. 148, Society of Antiquaries Library.

² *Berks. Arch. Journ.*, Vol. LIII, 1953, p. 1.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Cwt. Qrs. Lb.</i> <i>Weight.</i> |
|--------------|--|--|
| Fifth. | WM. LAVRENCE & INO. KIRBY CH. WARDENS (<i>Loop border.</i>) LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1764 (<i>Loop</i> <i>border.</i>) | 10 0 12 |
| Sixth. | CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS, LONDON. 1867. / (<i>Royal Arms.</i>) / PATENT. | 11 3 17 |
| Seventh. | THE REVD. I. V. BUTTON, M.A. (<i>Orna-</i> <i>ment.</i>) R. COWPER: & H. BAVERSTOCK: C: WARDENS. W. & J. TAYLOR, FOUNDERS. 1843. | 15 0 20 |
| Tenor. | LESTER & PACK OF LONDON. FECIT. / WM. LAVRENCE & INO. KIRBY CH: WARDENS. 1764. / RECAST BY MEARS & STAINBANK / WHITECHAPEL FOUNDRY / LONDON. 1892. / H. D. DE VITRE, W. JACKSON, } CHURCHWARDENS. | 21 2 15 |

The treble and second were added to the ring in 1892. They were cast at the Whitechapel foundry, London, and at the same time Messrs. Mears and Stainbank recast the former second which became the fourth of the augmented ring, and they also recast the tenor.

The third was cast by Henry Knight II, of Reading, 1669; the fifth by Lester and Pack, of London, 1764; the sixth by John Warner and Sons, of London, 1867; and the seventh by William and John Taylor, of Oxford, 1843.

The bells hang in an oak frame, probably dating from 1892. They were recently rehung by Messrs. John Taylor and Co., who fitted new cast iron headstocks, fixed steel gudgeons, self-aligning ball bearings, and traditional-type wheels and other gear. All the bells in the ring have had their canons removed.

The saunce was cast by William Yare, of Reading. It bears the inscription:

THIS BELL WAS MADE 1609
E C W Y

Between the initials E.C. and W.Y. are curiously shaped fleurs-de-lys. The last initials are doubtless those of the bellfounder, but the name of his assistant is unknown. The bell has lost its original crown staple and a false one has been bolted to its crown. It is hung on an elm headstock which is fitted with drive-in type gudgeons and is swung by means of a seventeenth century type half-wheel.

Before the year 1892 the ring contained six bells, of which the treble was by Henry Knight II, 1669; the second by William Purdue, of Salisbury, 1660; the third and tenor by Lester and Pack, 1764; the fourth by Ellis and Henry Knight, of Reading, 1674; and the fifth by William and John Taylor, 1843. They were inscribed as follows:

Former Ring of Six Bells.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Weight.</i> | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lb.</i> |
| Treble. | WILLIAM CVRRY HENRY KEENE C W / H (<i>Shield, Fig. 17.</i>) K 1669 | 8 | 0 | 0# |
| Second. | IOHN PENNER ♣ IAFERY MASEMORE ♣ CHVRCH ♣ WARDENS ♣ 1660 (<i>Bell.</i>) W (<i>Bell.</i>) P (<i>Bell, and three fleurs-de-lys.</i>) | 9 | 0 | 0# |
| Third. | WM. LAVRENCE & INO. KIRBY CH. WARDENS (<i>Loop border.</i>) LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1764 (<i>Border.</i>) | 10 | 2 | 0# |
| Fourth. | EDWARD SKINNER CLEMENT SEXTON C W E H K 1674 | 12 | 2 | 0# |
| Fifth. | THE REVD. I. V. BUTTON, M.A. (<i>Orna-ment.</i>) R. COWPER: & H. BAVERSTOCK: C: WARDENS. W. & J. TAYLOR, FOUNDERS. 1843. | 16 | 0 | 0# |
| Tenor. | WM. LAVRENCE & INO. KIRBY CHVRCH WARDENS LESTER & PACK OF LONDON FECIT 1764 | 23 | 0 | 0# |

The inscriptions on these bells are recorded in the notebook of Alfred White, of Appleton. The entries were made about the year 1850. Of the bells mentioned by Mr. White, the treble remains as the third of the present ring, but its weight has been reduced to 7 cwt. 3 qrs. 13 lb. by the removal of its canons. The second was recast in 1892: it then weighed 8 cwt. 2 qrs. 27 lb.; it has since been reduced to 8 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. The third is retained as the fifth in the present ring. The fourth was recast in 1867. The fifth remains as the seventh of the augmented ring. The tenor was recast in 1892, and before the removal of its canons weighed 22 cwt. 0 qr. 12 lb.

At the township of Charlton in this parish is a Chapel of Ease erected during the latter half of the nineteenth century and equipped with a chime of two bells which hang in an enclosed turret.






Visited:

F.S., 30th April, 1926, 11th June, 1955.

233.

WARFIELD.

*St. Michael the Archangel.*Ring of Eight Bells; tenor 43 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, in F natural.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Weight. | | |
|----------|--|---------|------|-----|
| | | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lb. |
| Treble. | PRAYES THE LORD 1629 / (Whitechapel foundry mark.) / MEARS & STAINBAM, LONDON, 1913. | 4 | 2 | 21 |
| Second. |      Sancta Katerina Ora Pro Nobis (Coin.) (Shield, Fig. 5.) (Lion's head, Fig. 59.) (Cross, Fig. 3.) / (White- chapel foundry mark.) / MEARS & STAINBAM, LONDON, 1913. | 5 | 0 | 27 |
| Third. | + prays god 1597 / R ♣ E (Whitechapel foundry mark.) / MEARS & STAINBAM, LONDON, 1913. | 6 | 0 | 4 |
| Fourth. | + oure hope is in the lorde 1597 + / R ♣ E (Whitechapel foundry mark.) / MEARS & STAIN- BAM, LONDON, 1913. | 6 | 0 | 26 |
| Fifth. | BURKE GREGSON. (Whitechapel foundry mark.) / MEARS & STAINBAM, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1913. | 7 | 3 | 23 |
| Sixth. | GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO. (Whitechapel foundry mark.) / MEARS & STAINBAM, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1913. | 8 | 0 | 26 |
| Seventh. | SUNSHINE CORRA. (Whitechapel foundry mark.) / MEARS & STAINBAM, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1913. | 10 | 1 | 22 |
| Tenor. | SANCTUS SANCTUS SANCTUS. (Whitechapel foundry mark.) / MEARS & STAIN- BAM, FOUNDERS, LONDON, 1913. | 13 | 2 | 27 |






A ring of eight cast at the Whitechapel foundry, 1913. The metal of five old bells has been incorporated in the new ring and the inscriptions on four former bells have been reproduced in facsimile on their successors.

The bells hang in a wrought iron side-pattern frame mounted on rolled steel joists. The gear includes rolled steel headstocks, plate gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels, stays, sliders, and ground pulleys. The bells were cast without canons. A portion of the inscription band of the second bell, showing the reproduced founders' marks is illustrated on Plate XX.

The recasting and augmentation of the ring was made possible by the generosity of F.M. Sir Charles H. Brownlow, G.C.B.

Details of the former ring of five bells are preserved, among the Tyssen and Walters' MSS., in the Library of The Society of Antiquaries. The following account has been compiled from notes made by Dr. Tyssen about the year 1860.

Former Ring of Five Bells; tenor 50 inches in diameter, in D natural.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Weight. | | |
|---------|--|---------|------|-----|
| | | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lb. |
| Treble. | PRAYES THE LORD X629 | 8 | 0 | 0# |
| Second. |      Sancta Katerina Ora Pro Nobis. (Coin; Shield, Fig. 5; Lion's head, Fig. 59; Cross, Fig. 3.) | 10 | 0 | 0# |
| Third. | + prays ♡ god ♡ 1597 R ♣ E | 12 | 0 | 0# |
| Fourth. | + ♡ oure ♡ hope ♡ is ♡ in ♡ the ♡ lorde. ♡ 1597 ♡ R ♣ E | 16 | 0 | 0# |
| Tenor. | MR. GEORGE COOKE M:A: VICAR JOHN BAKER WILLIAM MITTON GEORGE DAWLING CHURCH WARDENS RICHARD PHELPS MADE ME 1718 | 22 | 0 | 0# |

Of these bells the treble was by Ellis Knight I, of Reading, 1629, with an inscription in the well-known sheet-metal type favoured by the Reading founders of this period. The second was a rare example from the Wokingham foundry *circa* 1480: its maker was probably John Michell. The third and fourth were by Richard Eldridge, of Chertsey, 1597; they had Eldridge's heart-shaped ornament between each word, and his fleur-de-lys between the founder's initials; the fleur-de-lys has not been correctly reproduced on the new bells. The tenor was by Richard Phelps, of the Whitechapel foundry, London, 1718.

There had been a ring of five bells since the Middle Ages. The Commissioners' inventories dated 1st August 1552 state: *Warfilde. fyve belles.*

Visited:

F.M.U., 1945.

234.

WARGRAVE.

St. Mary.

Ring of Eight Bells; tenor $46\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, in E natural

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Weight.</i> | | |
|--------------|---|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lb.</i> |
| Treble. | MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1915. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / ON EARTH PEACE GOODWILL TOWARDS MEN. | 5 | 2 | 6 |
| Second. | MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1915. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST. | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| Third. | MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1915. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / MY LIPS SHALL PRAISE THEE. | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Fourth. | MEARS & STAINBANK, LONDON. 1915. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / IN THIS PLACE WILL I GIVE PEACE. | 7 | 3 | 0 |
| Fifth. | MEARS&STAINBANK,FOUNDERS,LONDON. 1915. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / FEAR GOD HONOUR THE KING. | 8 | 3 | 8 |
| Sixth. | MEARS&STAINBANK,FOUNDERS,LONDON. 1915. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE AND WEEP WITH THEM THAT WEEP. | 10 | 0 | 21 |
| Seventh. | MEARS&STAINBANK,FOUNDERS,LONDON. 1915. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / LET HIM THAT HEARETH COME. | 12 | 3 | 11 |
| Tenor. | MEARS&STAINBANK,FOUNDERS,LONDON. / (<i>Whitechapel foundry mark.</i>) / A.D. 1915. / TO THE GLORY AND PRAISE OF GOD. / SAVED YET SO AS BY FIRE. | 17 | 2 | 10 |

A complete ring from the Whitechapel foundry. The bells were cast without canons, and are fitted with cast iron headstocks, fixed steel gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheels, clappers,

pulleys, stays and sliders. The ring hangs in a cast iron side-pattern frame, mounted on rolled steel joists. The frame and gear were installed by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, in 1915.

The former ring contained six bells, and I am informed by Mr. E. G. Burrows, the captain of the ringers, that these were destroyed by a fire caused by suffragettes on 1st June 1914. In the Library of The Society of Antiquaries is a record of the former ring made *circa* 1870 by Dr. A. D. Tyssen, from which the following account has been compiled.

Former Ring of Six Bells; tenor 42½ inches in diameter, in F sharp.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Weight.</i> | | |
|--------------|--|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lb.</i> |
| Treble. | HENRY KNIGHT MADE ME 1668 | 4 | 1 | 0# |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 5 | 0 | 0# |
| Third. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 5 | 3 | 0# |
| Fourth. | HENRY KNIGHT MADE ME 1670 | 7 | 0 | 0# |
| Fifth. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 9 | 0 | 0# |
| Tenor. | SAMVELL KNIGHT MADE MEE HP W DEAREING IOHN ABEARE C W 1688 | 12 | 0 | 0# |

These bells were cast at the Reading foundry; the treble, second, third and fifth by Henry Knight II, 1668; the fourth by him, 1670; and the tenor by Samuel Knight, 1688. On the tenor were large elaborate initial capitals similar to those found at East Hendred and illustrated in Fig. 68.¹ These were formed by the use of a set of moulding stamps formerly in the possession of John Wallis, a Salisbury bellfounder.

For notes on John Abeare see under the heading: Waltham St. Lawrence.

At Hare Hatch in this parish is a Chapel-of-Ease, erected in 1902, which contains one small modern bell.

Visited:

F.S., 2nd October, 1954.

235.

WASING.

St. Nicholas.

An enclosed central turret contains two bells, hung for chiming. This was ascertained by testing the swing of the bells by means of the two bell ropes in the church. There is no permanent means of

¹ *Berks. Arch. Journ.*, Vol. XLIV (1940), p. 98.

access to the turret, and as scaling ladders could not be procured at the time of the writer's visit the bells have not been examined by him.

They were seen by Dr. A. D. Tyssen and the Rev. T. A. Turner on 9th June 1877. Their notes are preserved among the Walters' MSS. at the Library of The Society of Antiquaries. From them we learn that in 1877 the church possessed two bells. The smaller bell, 18 inches in diameter, bore no inscription, but had two moulding wires round its shoulder, and two more round its rim: it was considered to be a modern casting. The larger bell, a maiden casting, 20½ inches in diameter, bore the date 1664, and was identified by means of its shape, mouldings, and the foundry stamps used in forming the date figures, as the work of Henry Knight II, of Reading. There were at the time of Messrs. Tyssen and Turner's visit pits in the bellframe for three bells.

The writer visited the church in 1955, and was told by Sir William Mount, the present churchwarden, that to his knowledge no alterations had been made in the belfry since 1877.

The Commissioners' inventories dated 4th August 1552 state:

"Two belles weing by estymatyon three C three smaule belles."

From the diameters of the bells quoted above we are able to calculate their approximate weights, and as these together total just over 3 cwt., we may safely assume that they are recastings of the bells mentioned in the inventory of 1552. The fate of the three "smaule belles" is unknown: they were probably saunce, sacring and lych bells.

Visited:

W.M.E.S., F.S., 8th July 1955.

236.

WATCHFIELD.

St. Thomas.

In an open western turret hangs one small bell. When viewed from the churchyard no inscription or marks could be seen, but the bell appeared to be of mid-nineteenth century shape. It retains its canons and is hung for ringing. The gear consists of an elm headstock, drive-in type gudgeons, brass bearings, and traditional-type wheel.

Visited:





F.S., 20th May 1955.

237.

WELFORD.

St. Gregory.

Ring of Five Bells; tenor 35 inches in diameter, in B flat; and a Sanctus Bell.

| Bell. | Inscription. | Weight. | | |
|---------|---|---------|------|-----|
| | | Cwt. | Qrs. | Lb. |
| Treble. | Blessed be the name of the lord (Coin. ¹) / Joseph (Shield, Fig. 6.) carter 1588 | 3 | 1 | 0# |
| Second. | + Henri Knight Mad ^a Mee ANO 1592 | 3 | 3 | 0# |
| Third. | HENRY KNIGHT MADE MEE X6X9 | 4 | 3 | 0# |
| Fourth. | (Ornamental border all round bell.) / WILLIAM  WEBB  GEORG ³  COEXHED ⁴  CHVRCH: WARDENS: GB : 1661 (Bell.) W (Bell.) P (Bell.) WB (Two trees.) | 5 | 3 | 0# |
| Tenor. | + missi de cellis habeo nomen gabrielis / WK 1576 | 7 | 2 | 0# |

An interesting ring, with the unique distinction of possessing three dated sixteenth century bells^a by three different founders.

The treble is by Joseph Carter, of Reading, who *inter alia* succeeded to the founders' marks and plant of the medieval Wokingham foundry, which accounts for his use here of the coin stamp, and the Wokingham foundry shield. As three other bells in the ring were cast at the rival Reading foundry, owned by members of the Knight family, one before, and two after the date of the treble, it seems surprising that Carter should have been employed at Welford in 1588.

The second, and third are by Henry Knight I; the second inscribed in a curious mixture of Roman capitals and black letter smalls, and the third in "sheet-metal" type.

The fourth was cast by William Purdue, and is a typical example of the products of the Salisbury foundry. It is unusual to find bells by the Purdue family so near the foundry of the Knights.

¹ Illustrated in Fig. Q3, *Church Bells of Oxfordshire*, Oxfordshire Record Society, Vol. XXXII., 1951, p. 331.

² *Sic.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

^a Dated sixteenth century bells are not common.

The tenor is by William Knight II, of Reading. One would not normally expect to find a pre-Reformation inscription on an Elizabethan bell, but William Knight is noted for the pre-Reformation character of his work and appears to have been an opponent of the Reformation.

One canon of the fourth bell is broken: the canons of the other bells are intact.

The strike-notes of these bells are tuned in the Lydian mode. They have been tuned in this scale at least since 1592, in which year the second was recast; and may have been thus tuned before that date. The third is a maiden bell; the treble and tenor have been sharpened and the second and fourth flattened.

The oak frame dates from the sixteenth century, and has been ingeniously planned to take advantage of the spaces formed by the splayed window recesses in the circular flint tower. The frame is of the braced-king-post type, with the addition of extra braces between the heads and end posts of each bell pit. This feature is found in the bellframe at West Hanney, made by Matthew Chancelor (or Chancler) of Reading,¹ who may have been the maker of the Welford frame. The West Hanney frame is dated 1605, and was described by Mr. G. P. Elphick as the earliest dated frame known to him.² The Welford frame is the earlier of the two and as before stated dates from the latter years of the previous century. The bell rope circle is unorthodox, and can hardly be termed a circle; the ropes fall in the awkward order: 1—3—4—2—5.

The wheels and fittings are of the traditional type, and the elm headstocks are fitted with strap gudgeons. Not long before the Second World War a local builder renewed the two largest headstocks. The ground rollers and clappers are of seventeenth century type, and may be the work of William Purdue. Wooden busk boards³ are fitted to the clapper heads. The main bearings are of the traditional brass type.

The Commissioners' Inventories, dated 4th August 1552, state: *Walfourd. iiij belles.*

Another inventory, dated 30th September 1552, states: *Walfourd. iiij belles in the steple wheof one is a sancts bell.*

The medieval sanctus bell was recast by Ellis Knight II and Henry Knight III in 1674; it now occupies a small pit in the bellframe between the tenor and treble, and is hung for chiming. It bears the inscription:

M ⊗ W G ⊗ F 1674

¹ *Berks. Arch. Journ.*, Vol. XLV., 1941, p. 68, and Plate XIV, p. 80.

² *Sussex Bell Frames*, Sussex Archaeological Collections, Vol. LXXXIV, p. 35.

³ See Fig. 76.

There are mission rooms at Hoe Benham, and Weston, in this parish, but nothing is known about their bells. The chapel at Hoe Benham, enlarged in 1875, contains one small bell: that at Weston, was built in 1894.

Visited:

R.G., F.S., 25th March 1940.

238.

WHITE WALTHAM.

St. Mary.

Ring of Six Bells; tenor 44 inches in diameter, in F.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> | <i>Weight.</i> | | |
|--------------|--|----------------|-------------|------------|
| | | <i>Cwt.</i> | <i>Qrs.</i> | <i>Lb.</i> |
| Treble. | CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1869 / (<i>Royal Arms.</i>) / PATENT | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Second. | (<i>Same as treble.</i>) | 5 | 3 | 0 |
| Third. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Fourth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Fifth. | (<i>The same.</i>) | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| Tenor. | CAST BY JOHN WARNER & SONS LONDON 1869 / REVD: W. W. YONGE VICAR / CAPTAIN J. LEE / EDWARD HUMFREY } CHURCHWARDENS / (<i>Royal Arms.</i>) / PATENT | 14 | 0 | 0 |

These bells were cast at the Cripplegate foundry in 1869 partly from the metal of the former ring of five. The new bells have "Doncaster" pattern heads; the fourth is a maiden casting; and the others have been flattened. They hang in an oak frame, which has recently been partially reconstructed and new cast iron side frame members fitted to the pits of the treble, second, and third. These three bells swing east-and-west: the three largest swing north-and-south.

Of the original nineteenth century gear the elm headstocks, wheels, stays and sliders remain; and recently the strap gudgeons and brass bearings have been replaced by plate gudgeons and self-aligning ball bearings.

Before being recast in 1869 the five old bells were examined by Dr. A. D. Tyssen, whose notes are now in the Library of The Society of Antiquaries,¹ and from which the following details are taken.

¹ *Walters' MS.*, fol. 149.

Former Ring of Five Bells.

| <i>Bell.</i> | <i>Inscription.</i> |
|--------------|--|
| Treble. | PRAYES GOD X635 |
| Second. | HONAR GOD X635 |
| Third. | PRAYES THE LORD X635 |
| Fourth. | J WARNER & SONS CRESCENT FOUNDRY LONDON 1857 |
| Tenor. | GOODALL TAME & JOHN LEE CH WARDENS OF WHITE WALTHAM J75J THOS LESTER OF LONDON MADE ME |

The treble, second and third were by Ellis Knight I, of Reading; the fourth by Messrs. Warner; and the tenor by Thomas Lester, of the Whitechapel foundry.

Visited:

S.M.G., F.S., 2nd June 1956.

239.

WICKHAM.*St. Swithin.*

One Bell, 25 inches in diameter, having the strike-note E natural, and weighing approximately 3½ cwt., hung for ringing.

The bell was cast either by Richard, or by Roger Purdue in the year 1617. It is a maiden casting and bears the inscription:

+ **ANNO DOMI NI** ◇
1617 R (Bell.) P

The letters "N" in "anno" are conjoined.

Three of the six canons of the bell are broken, and false iron canons have been fitted in their places. The bell is illustrated on Plate XXI.

The bell hangs from two transverse beams—the oldest and most primitive form of bellframe. The gear consists of an elm headstock, strap gudgeons, brass bearings, stirrup-topped clapper with leather baldrick, short iron stay, and a half-wheel of unusual type, which appears to have been made from one half of a complete wheel.

Before the Reformation the tower contained three small bells. The Commissioners' inventory, dated 4th August, 1552, states:

Three belles weinge by estymation vj. C.

Visited:

F.S., 25th March 1940.

(To be continued.)